



# County of San Diego

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

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Base Station Physicians' Committee  
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Community Epidemiology  
Emergency & Disaster Medical Services  
HIV, STD and Hepatitis  
Immunization  
Maternal, Child and Family Health Services  
Public Health Laboratory  
PH Nursing/Border Health  
TB Control & Refugee Health  
Vital Records

## BASE STATION PHYSICIANS' COMMITTEE MEETING

### Minutes

TUESDAY, April 19, 2011

#### Members Present

Dunford, M.D., Jim - City of S.D. Medical Director  
Grad, M.D., Michele - Palomar BHMD  
Howard, R.N., Luann - Scripps La Jolla BHNC  
Linnik, M.D., Bill - Sharp Memorial BHMD  
Marugg, James - S.D. County Paramedics Association  
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary - Sharp Grossmont BHNC  
Reilly, M.D., Ian - Scripps La Jolla BHMD  
Sallee, M.D., Donald - NMCSO  
Tomaneng, M.D., Neil - Tri-City BHMD  
Zahller, M.D., Steve - Scripps Mercy BHMD

#### Guests Present

Armstrong, Ted - UCSD  
Bourdon, R.N., Darlene - Scripps Mercy  
Crawford, Leslie - NMCSO  
DeMers, Gerard - UCSD  
Dotson, R.N., Melody - UCSD BHNC  
Graydon, R.N., Cheryl - Palomar Medical Center  
Healy, R.N., Marla - Sharp Memorial  
Hussain, Turiq - NLT, San Diego  
Idman-Gervais, R.N., Dianne - Sharp Grossmont  
Kahn, Chris - UCSD  
Laymon, Anne - Rady Children's Hospital CHET  
Patrick, Dana - Rady Children's Hospital CHET  
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda - Sharp Memorial  
Rosenberg, R.N., Wendy for Karen Majerczak  
Sapida, R.N., Juliet - UCSD Medical Center

#### Associate Members

Allington, R.N., Linda - Carlsbad Fire  
Anderson, R.N., Marilyn - Vista Fire  
Broyles, R.N., Linda - AMR/RCCP  
Cavanaugh, Mary - Miramar Fire  
Davis, M.D., Dan - Mercy Air  
Foehr, Rick - EMSTA College  
Hinton, William - Mercy Air  
Hudnet, Carlen - SDMS  
Lemir, H. - SDMS  
Maloney, Michael - AMR  
Seabloom, R.N., Lynne - Oceanside Fire  
Vogt, Rick - San Marcos Fire

#### County Staff

Haynes, M.D., Bruce  
Smith, Susan  
Stepanski, Barbara

#### Recorder

Wolchko, Janet I.

Serra, John – UCSD  
Wells, R.N., Christine – Scripps La Jolla

## **I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ian Reilly, M.D., Chair called the meeting to order at 11:05 am.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes for March 15, 2011 were approved.

## **III. MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Bruce Haynes, M.D.)**

Janet Wiecjorek, EMS coordinator who covers trauma and Emergency Medical Services for Children is leaving San Diego County. Her husband who works at OES has taken a position in the Bay Area with the State as State Regional Coordinator. She will be missed by Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

Travis Kusman has accepted a position as Division General Manager of Rural Metro in Santa Clara County. He has been an integral member of the EMS system for years and a valuable participant on County committees.

Offload Delays: Offload delays continue to cause concern. A note was sent to the hospitals to emphasize how important the issue is and to obtain suggestions on how they might track offload delays. Hospitals are working with their providers to minimize delays.

BLS Transport issues: Excessive use of code 3 lights and siren responses has been reviewed with the ambulance providers. There have been issues regarding patient care records that are not left with the patient in the hospital emergency department after transfer. When arriving at a facility to transport a patient, BLS crews should identify the patient by checking their ID's, talking to facility staff and checking their chart.

BLS providers should maintain an updated list of BLS provider contact names and telephone numbers with County EMS staff. Contact Mike Marx, at EMS for any questions or information.

EMOC: The Emergency Medical Oversight Committee (EMOC) has issued Emergency Department Guidelines for narcotic prescriptions. Patients that have chronic pain conditions should receive prescriptions by their caregiver not from the emergency room department. Medical prescription records can be found on the Controlled Substance Utilization Review and Evaluation System (CURES) database where entries are made of controlled substance drugs dispensed in California. Also listed on the CURES database are potential indicators for prescription drug abuse and fraud.

SONGS: Every two years there is an emergency radioactive leak response drill at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) Plant. During the drill they exercise evacuation procedures, evaluate exposure and test monitoring stations. This year an ingestion pathway drill was conducted with San Diego County, Orange County and three coastal cities in the SONGS area. Los Angeles, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties participated as well. "Plume" modeling was used to monitor contamination and to determine what the effect would be on food and animals in different areas depending on the wind and size of the radiological release. The drill lasted three days and was monitored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

POLST: Dr. Dunford inquired if there was Physician Order for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) training given to law enforcement in San Diego County and will confirm if training for first responders includes police personnel.

#### **IV. SAN DIEGO HEALTHCARE DISASTER COUNCIL (SDHDC) (Linda Rosenberg, R.N.)**

SDHDC is meeting tomorrow.

SDHDC is planning a pediatric surge drill for June 18, 2011.

#### **V. ROC UPDATE (Dan Davis, M.D.)**

The ROC lactate study will begin this month. City of San Diego, Mercy Hospital and UCSD are participating in the study. There are a limited number of machines to take the lactate samples which caused a delay in starting the study. The lactate study is an observational study to review whether out of hospital lactate predicts inpatient events such as transfusions, laparotomies and death.

The next cardiac arrest study will be the Amiodarone, Lidocaine and Placebo Study (ALPS) in the fall.

San Diego will not be participating in the initial pilots for the “big fluid versus little fluid study” because trauma centers have adopted the limited fluid approach; and, the “factor replacement study”, because hospitals and trauma centers have adopted an aggressive factor replacement protocol. One of the community standard basic premises has been not to interfere with the community standard solely to conduct a study to go to another standard of care.

The next study on trauma will be the “Estrogen study for traumatic shock and traumatic brain injury.” The FDA is waiting to receive data from Dallas Ft. Worth, where they are currently conducting a pilot.

The Resuscitation Conference was held a few weeks ago. There were 250-300 people in attendance. In the future the California State Trauma System is interested in joining with the ROC Resuscitation Conference to have a two to three day annual event for EMS, trauma and critical care/cardiac arrest.

#### **VI. PRADAXA (Dr. Reilly)**

Pradaxa is a new anticoagulant drug which is treated similar to Coumadin during trauma triage in the emergency department. In cost comparison, the cost for Coumadin is approximately \$15 per day, including monitoring and for Pradaxa, which does not need to be monitored, the cost is approximately \$6 per day. The concern with Pradaxa is how to reverse people who overdose or have active bleeding while using Pradaxa. Discussion continued on medication used to reverse coagulopathy, the use and affects of taking Pradaxa, thrombin time accuracy, dosing and comparison to Coumadin.

Neurologists met and discussed how Pradaxa affects stroke codes and thrombin times. They will accept an elevated international normalized ratio (INR) of up to 1.7 and will continue to give an intravenous tissue plasminogen activator (IV tPA).

It has been suggested that primary physicians who prescribe Pradaxa should recommend the patient wear a medic alert bracelet.

Dr. Haynes reported that the trauma surgeons have agreed to develop guidelines for trauma centers and emergency departments for the treatment of anti-coagulated patients who suffer from minor head injury that may not be a trauma patient.

Information on Pradaxa will be included in the Pearls for PAC.

## **VII. ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION**

John Serra, from UCSD, reported that they are using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology and the Global Positioning System (GPS) to locate what areas have the highest risk for CPR.

Dr. Dunford commented that the Federal government is interested in using EMS and emergency department data to determine what areas have the most healthcare expenses, where expenses can be saved and in which community healthcare can help the most. The study is similar to the Resource Access Program (RAP) which identifies “super users” who call 911. They would like to determine how EMS and the emergency departments view and address expense in healthcare.

Mary Meadows-Pitt announced that in June, Jim Fix, the head of the Program Evaluation and Review Team (PERT) will be here to discuss PERT and their interface with EMS.

## **VIII. SET NEXT MEETING (May 17, 2011)/ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting will be May 17, 2011, 11 am at Sharp Spectrum, 8695 Spectrum Center Court, Kearny Mesa, San Diego, CA.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Submitted by,

Janet I. Wolchko, Administrative Secretary  
San Diego County-Emergency Medical Services